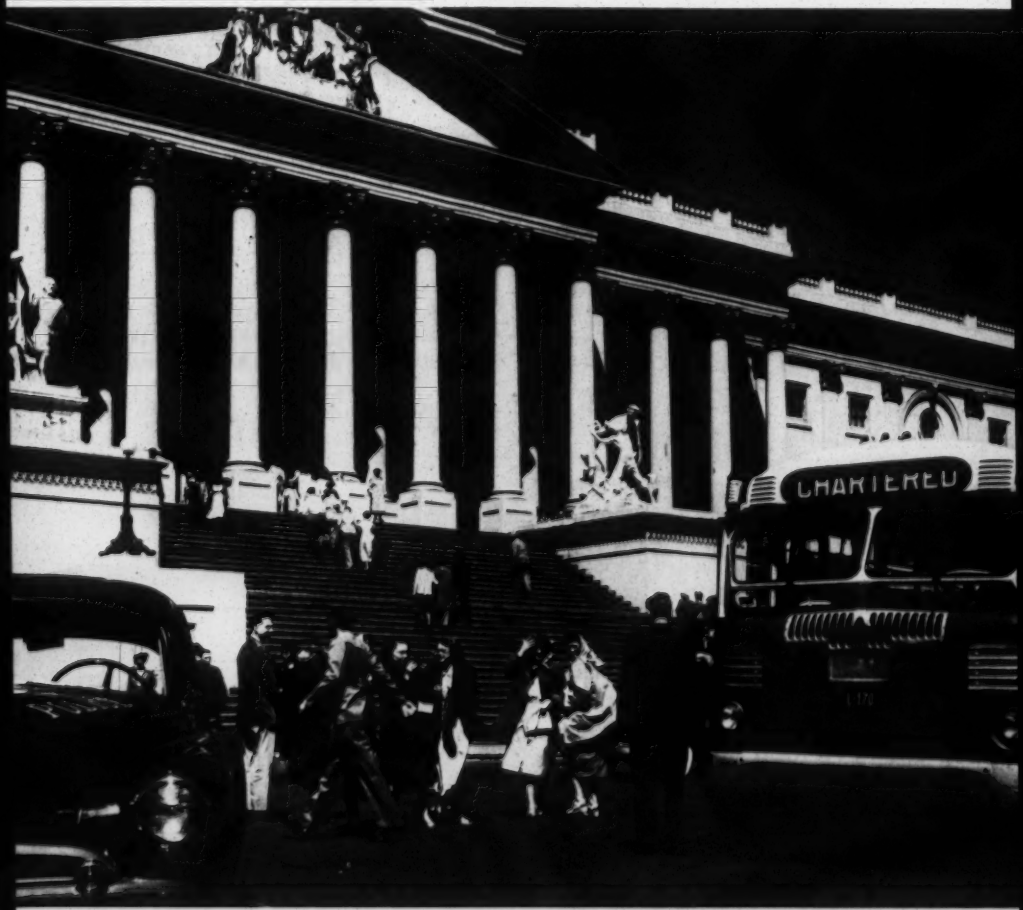
GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 25, APRIL 13, 1959 . . . *To Know This World, Its Life*



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER B. ANTHONY STEWART

High school seniors debark at the Capitol to begin their Washington spring tour

PILGRIMAGE TIME IN WASHINGTON

► Your Changing Capital
► Pennsylvania Avenue
► Visitor's Pictorial Guide
► Explorers Hall
► Zoo Shows Animal World
► Music for Young America

289

UMI

Throughout downtown, old buildings are being torn down and modern structures erected in their places.

Union headquarters, office buildings, parking garages, all exhibit the straight-line architecture now fashionable.

The Smithsonian Institution has brightened and modernized many of its exhibits, and is building a new Museum of History and Technology (see architect's sketch below).

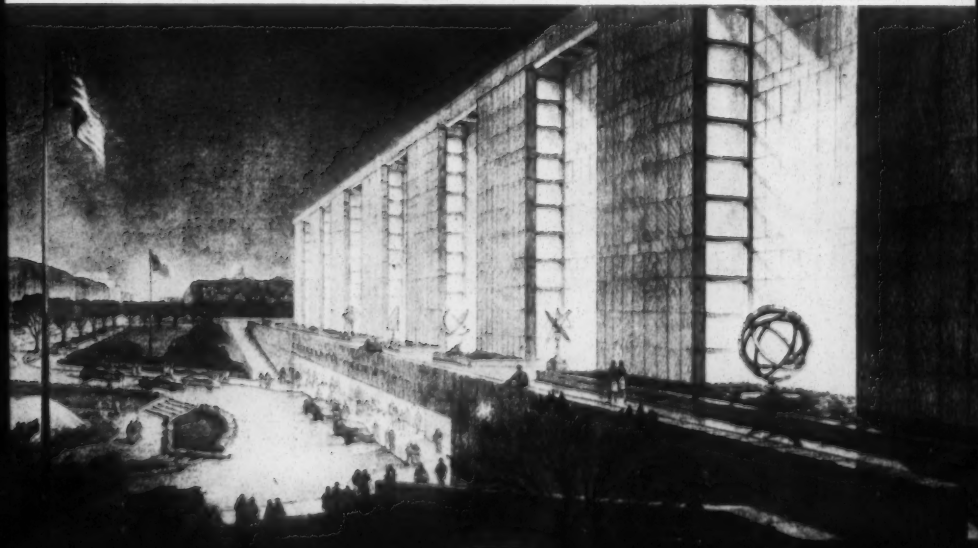
The State Department's headquarters in Foggy Bottom, ever busier in these times of international crises, are being expanded into the largest office building in the District of Columbia—exceeded in size in the metropolitan area only by the mammoth Pentagon across the Potomac River in Arlington. State covers four city blocks. Originally planned to gather all of State's activities under one huge roof, the building will be inadequate before it is finished.

To many of these buildings, new and old, you as a citizen are welcome. The aerial photograph on page 294 indicates their locations. It can serve as a handy map, as well as an over-all look at your rapidly changing Capital. F.S.

ARTHUR P. MILLER, JR., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

WITH MUSCLE AND ARTISTIC SKILL, Washington is being remade. Above, the old East Front of the Capitol is ripped away; below, a sketch of the new Smithsonian Institution building.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



UMI

FRANK SARTWELL, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

CHANGING CAPITAL

SUREST SIGN OF SPRING in Washington is not the greening grass or the pink necklace of cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin. It is the arrival of thousands of high school students, who flock to their Nation's Capital the way birds flock north.

Those who try to count them as they stroll past the souvenir shops of Pennsylvania Avenue, or gaze in awe at Lincoln in his marble memorial on the Mall, estimate that more than two million will visit Washington this year. They come from all across the country for a combination holiday and living civics lesson.

After a week or so, each group leaves, a little foot-weary but enriched by a greater understanding of their country and its traditions.

For them, and for those who will follow, this special Washington issue of the *Geographic School Bulletins* has been prepared.

This year's swarm is already appearing in bannered buses. It finds a rapidly changing Capital City. There are new sights to see, new buildings to tramp through, new variations on a 165-year-old theme.

Change is concentrated on Capitol Hill. Like a marble exclamation point, a new 100-foot tower (above) rises to honor the memory of the late Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio. A carillon of 27 bells at its top will play concerts. Formal dedication of the shaft is scheduled for April 14.

On another side of the great gray cast-iron dome, men and machines have ripped away the classic columns and stone steps of the central portico as the beginning of a $10 million restoration project. The entire portico will be rebuilt, extending the front 32 feet into the Capitol plaza. Below, workmen unload equipment before boarded up corridors of the old central portion, while the dome edge hangs over empty air.

On two sides of the Capitol, new buildings will house Senators and Representatives. The New Senate Office Building, just occupied, receives finishing touches north of the Capitol. To the south a "new new" (there are already an "Old" and a "New") House Office Building rises slowly from a giant hole in the ground.

While most evident on "The Hill," change is by no means limited to it.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, copyright © 1959 by the National Geographic Society, Melville Bell Grosvenor, President. Published weekly during school months by the School Service Division, Ralph Gray, Chief. Assts.: Arthur P. Miller, Jr., Frank Sartwell, Katherine Crapster, Liva Baker. Entered as second class matter, Wash., D.C. International copyright. All rights reserved. Rates: United States, $2.00 for 30 issues (one school year); Canada, $2.25; elsewhere, $2.50. U. S. only, three years (90 issues) for $5.00. The National Geographic Society is a nonprofit educational and scientific society established for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER VOLKMAR WENTZEL

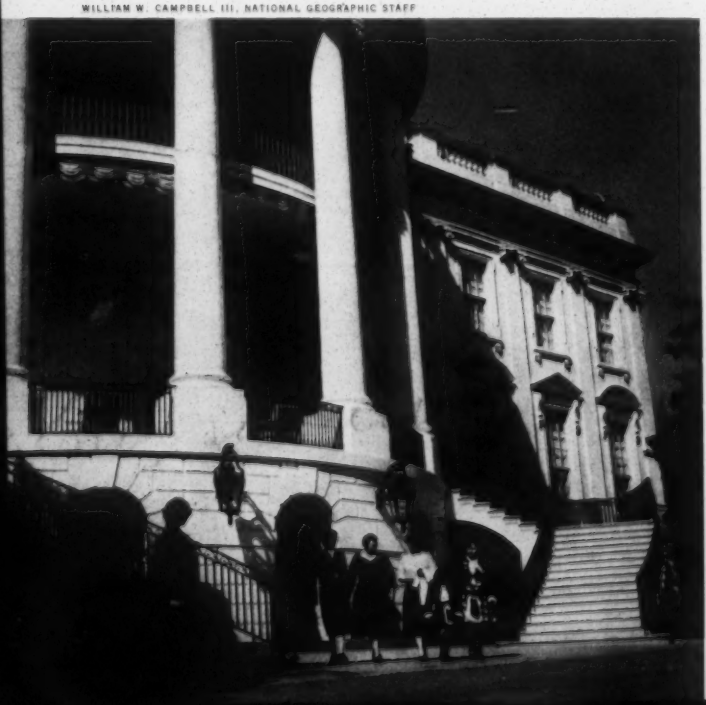
Fifteenth Street. Actually, it skips north two blocks, begins again, and continues past the White House to Georgetown. The story goes that President Andrew Jackson, irked by delay in choosing a spot for the Treasury, thrust his cane in the ground at the northeast corner of the block and shouted, "Put the cornerstone there." And there they put it —to the eternal confusion of visitors and traffic engineers.

Not all the parades have been celebrations. Others marked sad occasions. The funeral of President Lincoln reversed the inaugural route, plodding from the White House to the Capitol where his body lay in state before its trip to Springfield, Illinois, for burial.

The next month, May, 1865, 44 days after Appomattox, the biggest crowd ever assembled up to that time in Washington cheered as the victorious Union Army marched along Pennsylvania Avenue in a two-day review.

Between the White House and the Capitol, government buildings line much of the "grand avenue." The Smithsonian Institution is within walking distance. The National Archives building stands beside the avenue. The National Gallery of Art (above) is near by. The Justice Department, which includes the famous FBI headquarters, faces the avenue at Ninth Street. People from all over the world, including the sari-clad Pakistanis in the photograph, come to see the historic thoroughfare.

WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL III, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF



1600 PENNSYLVANIA Avenue, address of presidents since John Adams, is the oldest public building in the Nation's Capital. A walk through its rooms and corridors takes awed visitors where immortals have trod. In the southeast room on the second floor, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. The bed where Lincoln slept is still in the White House. Left, kilt-clad visitors from Nova Scotia walk beside the south portico.

UMI

WASHINGTON EVENING STAR

The Route of Presidents

THE MAIN STREET of the Nation's Capital is Pennsylvania Avenue, where Presidents ride in triumph from inaugural ceremonies (Eisenhower's second, above).

More often, it is crowded with typing-tired stenographers packed on streetcars for the trip home from government offices.

For residents of Washington, Pennsylvania Avenue is simply "The Avenue," although there are avenues named for almost every State.

In automobiles, streetcars, and buses, they pour along morning and evening, all but ignoring the national shrines that line the avenue.

They are lucky if out-of-town guests come to visit. Then, as "guides" they have motivation to see Congress in session; to view the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in the National Archives; to admire the masterpieces in the National Gallery of Art; to examine the White House interior.

The street that links all these began as a muddy footpath. Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the French engineer who planned Washington, saw it as a "grand avenue."

Not everyone agreed. When L'Enfant ordered the street 160 feet wide, farmers who had to give up their land grumbled. One caused a delay by insisting on harvesting his corn before workmen could move in.

Charles Dickens, in 1842, saw the street as one of the city's "spacious avenues that begin in nothing and lead nowhere."

However, the English novelist could not have been more wrong. One-and-a-half miles of the avenue link the two most important buildings in the country: the Capitol, where all federal laws are made, and the White House, where every President except George Washington has lived and worked.

A famous legend accounts for the avenue's strange jog. Stopped by the Treasury building, the avenue seems to end at

Students' Guide to Our Federal City

WASHINGTON at a glance—the aerial photograph at left gives an eagle's view of many tourist favorites, including:

1. Taft Memorial. (See page 290.)

2. Senate Office Building.

3. New Senate Office Building. Both open to the public, as are many hearings conducted in the buildings.

4. Supreme Court. Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Conducted tours every 15 minutes except when court is in session. Closed Sundays and holidays.

5. Library of Congress. Exhibition halls open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 2 to 6 p.m. Tours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every hour on the hour except noon. No week-end tours.

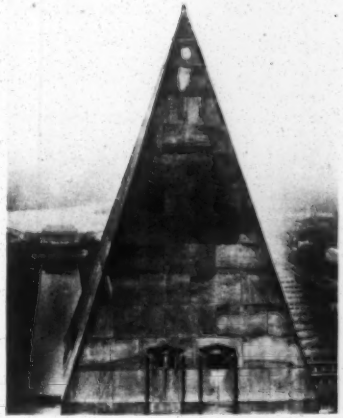
6. Library of Congress Annex.

7. Folger Shakespeare Library. Open 11 to 4:30, Monday through Saturday except holidays.

8. House Office Buildings. Open to public, as are open hearings conducted there.

9. Site of new House Office Building. (See page 290.)

10. FBI Identification Division.



WASHINGTON POST

11. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Voice of America tours at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

12. Constitution Avenue.

13. Pennsylvania Avenue.

14. United States District Court.

15. District Municipal Center.

16. National Gallery of Art. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., tours at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.; open Sunday, 2 to 10 p.m., tours at 2:30 and 5 p.m.

17. Federal Triangle. Triangular-shaped block of government buildings, including FBI headquarters, which are open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours every 15 minutes.

18. National Archives. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday; 1 to 10 p.m., Sundays and holidays.

19. Department of Commerce. Aquarium in basement open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Youth concerts in auditorium.

20. White House. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Continuous tours. (See page 293.)

21. Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History. Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Tours by appointment. Right, the unveiling of the Fenykovi Elephant, largest land animal of the modern world, on display in the Museum's rotunda.

22. Site of Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology. (See page 291.)

23. Washington Monument (left, photographed from helicopter). Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. High school groups up to 19 years admitted free. Elevator fee 10¢ for visitors 17 and older.

24. Reflecting Pool.

25. Lincoln Memorial. Open daily, 9 to 9.

26. Department of Agriculture.

27. Tidal Basin. Japanese cherry blossoms attract many visitors each spring.

28. Jefferson Memorial. Open daily 9 to 9.

29. Department of State. Exhibits open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Briefings on areas of the world given by request. Write Public Services Division, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

30. National Geographic Society. Explorers Hall open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except holidays. (See page 296.)

31. General Accounting Office.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER VOLKMAR WENTZEL

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN PRIHODE

UMI

Capitol Airlines
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

projections into the future. Many of the exhibits are treasures from the Society's expeditions.

From the other side of the world—New Guinea—came the grotesque carvings below. A visitor holds a flamboyant bird of paradise. Beside her are masks made by tribesmen, some of the most primitive people in the world. E. Thomas Gilliard led the National Geographic Society expedition which brought back these artifacts.

The polar adventures of Admiral Richard E. Byrd and Admiral Robert E. Peary are honored in Explorers Hall. Prominently displayed is the sun compass designed by Albert H. Bumstead, The Society's late Chief Cartographer, for Admiral Byrd's use in the first flight over the North Pole, where magnetic compasses are useless. South Polar exploration is represented by relics and pictures of Admiral Byrd's early work there. A camera used by Admiral Peary in his discovery of the North Pole is also on display. (See *Geographic School Bulletins*, April 6, 1959.)

Research on one of the last great frontiers of science, the ocean depths, is shown through the work of two of the most successful scientists to undertake it. The bathysphere of William Beebe, whose expeditions were cosponsored by The Society, is represented by a three-inch-thick quartz window that safeguarded him against tremendous water pressure of 3,000 feet down. Near by are ancient Italian dinner plates, brought up from the floor of the Mediterranean Sea by Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau, coinventor of the Aqua-Lung and leader of several Society expeditions.

A section of Explorers Hall is dedicated to projects that reach beyond Earth. A series of giant enlargements of plates from the farthest-reaching map ever made hang here. The National Geographic-Palomar Observatory Sky Survey charted the universe to the incredible distance of one billion light years from Earth. A light year is six million, million miles. The map is expected to provide astronomers with data for a century's work.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER BATES LITTLEHALES

Within sight of the Dzibilchaltun exhibit rests an eight-foot-high stone head, a cast of a pre-Columbian carving found by a series of Society expeditions to southern Mexico.

Diagonally across the Hall is a glimpse into an aeronautical future: a display of models of aircraft and missiles used by the Defense Department—rockets, helicopters, jet bombers, transports, and blimps.

The art and science of color photography, which the Society has done much to advance, are represented in the Hall. Enlargements of outstanding color pictures line the walls. Subjects stretch around the world, from Pole to Pole, from the savages of tropical jungles to the sophisticates of Hollywood and Washington.

Visitors are welcome in Explorers Hall every working day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is no charge. The Hall is closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. L. B.

UMI

Explorers Hall Spells Adventure

A DIVER, UP FROM THE MURKY DEPTHS of a ceremonial well, proffers an ancient jar, inviting the knowledge-hungry to share adventure in Dzibilchaltun, lost city of the Maya.

The photograph introduces Explorers Hall, tribute of the National Geographic Society to man's determination to understand the world around him. The Hall is in The Society's headquarters, Sixteenth and M Streets N. W. Its displays have attracted more than 7,000 visitors a month, including such diverse viewers as Charles A. Lindbergh, Shirley Temple, visiting foreign dignitaries, Presidents of the United States, and innumerable classes of school children.

WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL III, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

The boys in the photograph above have accepted the diver's invitation. They have begun a tour through the archeological fruit of two seasons' work in Mexico's Yucatán. They inspect the misshapen clay figures which named the Temple of the Seven Dolls, the expedition's main excavation. The ancient structure was built, and later buried, by Maya Indians, who developed a spectacular civilization in Middle America. Other visitors examine stucco ornaments from the temple (center). Manikin at right shows diver's gear used in exploring the well.

Dzibilchaltun, where a National Geographic Society-Tulane University expedition is now in its third season of excavation, may be the largest pre-Columbian city yet discovered in the New World: 20 square miles of ruined pyramids and temples. (See *Geographic School Bulletins*, January 19, 1959.)

The Dzibilchaltun exhibit is but one of many in Explorers Hall. Here you can see displays that reach not only around the world, but out of it; from earliest times to

Admiring glances for African friends: giraffe, above; porcupine, right

ERNEST J. COTTRELL

pair of European forest bison. This is the first such birth recorded in the United States.

In addition, the visitor can see the collection of lions—fed at 1:30 p.m. daily except Sunday—tigers, rhinos, zebras, deer, hippos, prairie dogs, raccoons, sea lions, ducks, swans, eagles, and snakes.

Keepers recently redecorated the bird house to show the birds to visitors as they would be seen in their natural habitat. They made a beach, complete with conch shells and pebbles, for the killdeer; a swamp for the rice grackle; and a waterfall for the doves. The kookaburra—laughing jackass—got a jungle like one in his native Australia. Weaverbirds enjoy a large woven nest and shelter area, and road runners trot in a desert panorama.

Many of the zoo's animals have become legends. There was the baboon which liked to lean against the bars of his cage, pretending to be asleep. As visitors ruffled him with canes or umbrellas, the alert animal would snatch the objects. His lifetime catch: 68 umbrellas and canes, a gold watch, a feather boa, a policeman's helmet, and a Congressman's hat and gloves.

Then there was the mynah bird which, during a visit of the Director of the Federal Bureau of the Budget, screeched: "How about the appropriation?"

A mynah bird still embarrasses zoo officials. At all hours of the day he shrieks like a police whistle and screams: "Closing up!"

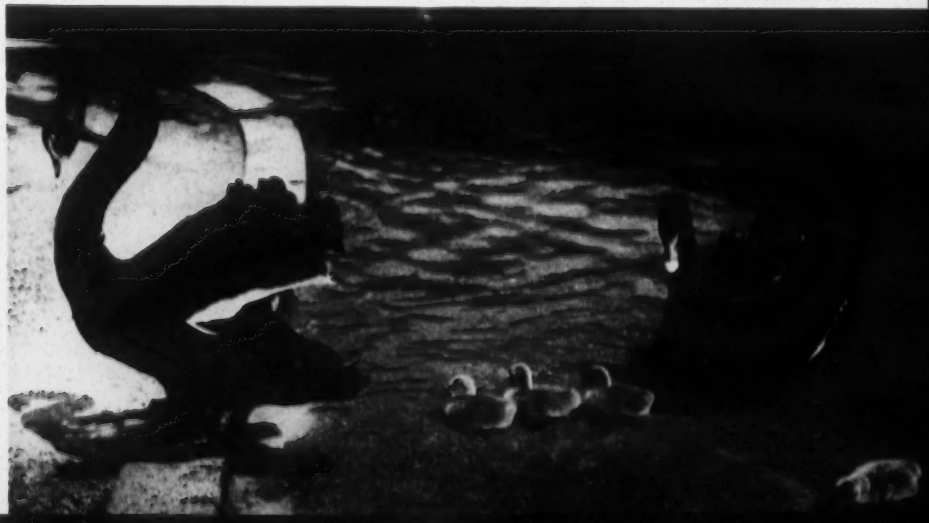
Zoo animals have to be cared for every minute. A sick tapir may need aureomycin pills. Hippos take periodic trips to the dentist to have their tusks filed. Elephants get regular pedicures—in captivity their soles get too thick, crack, and pick up sharp objects from the ground.

In addition to the varied and fascinating world of animals, the zoo offers picnic benches and restaurant facilities for hungry visitors.

L. B.

Australian black swans show off their youngsters at the bird house pool

WASHINGTON POST



UMI

Washington's City of Animals

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER VOLKMAR WENTZEL

A curious gibbon from Thailand

THE BRIGHTER and clearer the morning, the earlier the growl of busses in parking lots and the laughter of visitors drowns out the roar of lions and the chatter of birds in Washington's National Zoological Park.

From babies in carriages to grandfathers with canes, more than 3,000,000 people a year swarm over the park's 175 acres to make faces at the monkeys, see the elephants take baths, and watch the giraffes munch their lunches from ceiling-high plates.

A few hours of tramping the park, located on the banks of Rock Creek, afford the visitor glimpses of more than 3,000 animals representing about 700 species.

Now almost 70 years old, the zoo grew from humble beginnings as an informal menagerie in the Smithsonian Institution's United States National Museum.

Zoo officials crossed the world to bring back many of the animals; others were donated. Many are gifts from foreign governments.

Zoogoers everywhere enjoy watching the bears, and Washington visitors are not exceptions. At almost any hour of the day, people of all generations can be seen tossing peanuts to Smokey, model for fire prevention posters, and his fellow bears.

ERNEST J. COTTRELL

Although the bears, who have learned to beg politely, consume an astronomical number of peanuts, their digestive systems are still ready at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. when feeding time rolls around.

A favorite of zoo officials is Charlie Mac, a baby snow leopard. Even adult snow leopards are difficult to keep in captivity, and Charlie Mac is believed to be the first of his species ever to be raised successfully without his mother. He spent the first three months of his life in an incubator.

Another favorite is a baby wisent, born to a

TEEN TALENT CONTEST: Susan Starr, winner of a $2,000 prize, plays with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Howard Mitchell. The contest attracted high school pianists, violinists, and cellists from all over the country. Susan previously had won a regional elimination, then had triumphed in Washington, D. C., over all other finalists. Her big moment was a concert appearance with the National Symphony, which sponsors the annual contest named for Mrs. Merriweather Post. This year's finalists will play on the "Music for Young America" program of May 5.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

For Visitors: Free Concerts

MUSIC BREAK for sightseers: Cultural relaxation interrupts a footsore pilgrimage of patriotic shrines for these high school seniors touring Washington. They listen to the National Symphony Orchestra in the patio of the Pan American Union. From April 15 through May 18 the orchestra gives free concerts for visiting students and their chaperons at 7:45 every evening except April 21 and 24. Some concerts are held indoors in the Department of Commerce Auditorium. The "Music for Young America" series began as the idea of Conductor Mitchell, who wanted to add music to the students' itineraries. Mrs. Merriweather Post, a founder of the orchestra, underwrites the series. For tickets to any of the concerts, write in advance to Ralph Black, Manager, National Symphony Orchestra, Hotel Roosevelt, 16th and V Streets N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

UMI